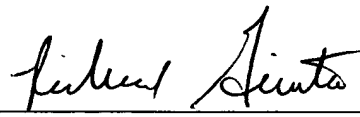


criteria that enables the selection of a path other than the target path identified by the out of band control command. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that the rejection of claim 15 (as well as claims 16-22 that depend therefrom) over the prior art of record is improper, and should be withdrawn.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If, after reviewing this response, the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, he is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application. In this respect, Applicants need to decide whether to continue prosecution of this application before the Examiner or pursue an appeal. It is believed that a telephone discussion with the Examiner and his supervisor would be helpful in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,  
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